

From: [Kate Barsotti](#)
To: [Parks-Shaw, Ryana](#); [Melissa Patterson Hazley](#); [Bunch, Eric](#); [Rea, Crispin](#); [Rogers, Wes](#); [Bough, Andrea](#); [Duncan, Johnathan](#); [Jonathan Cokely](#); [Dylan VanGerpen](#)
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Good morning:

Please support the preservation of Smith Hall on the campus of the Kansas City University of Medicine.

The university has torn down many buildings and homes over the years, and altered streets, yet the promised investment has not occurred. We see this pattern often with institutions.

We were assured by the mayor that this situation would not occur if the master plan were approved.

KCU's 'Master Plan' to make changes for NE KC

<https://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/what-does-kcus-master-plan-designation-mean-for-northeast-kansas-city>

"Lucas told 41 Action News that people shouldn't be worried about historic buildings being knocked down without city approval, even while under a Master Plan. The councilman said that a Master Plan is simply a more cohesive plan that will allow KCU to save time and expenses, and if they were to tear down historic buildings without approval first, there may be legal consequences."

The recent stormwater improvements on Paseo, partly paid for by the taxpayer, have been entirely fenced off by the university for the exclusive use of their students and staff. Meanwhile, as we are awaiting a 300,000 square foot mental health hospital, encampments are proliferating at Independence and Paseo. The state has shown it's incapable of securing its own property. Highway walls are riddled with graffiti and garbage is everywhere. Arson is rampant.

In other words, this area is an ongoing disaster because of repeated institutional failure, false assurances, political gamesmanship, and lack of civic responsibility and leadership on all levels. We did the best we could with the Paseo Gateway project and we ended up on the losing end. If I sound angry and tired, it's because I am.

Perhaps it's just one building. Or perhaps it's indicative of the way Kansas City treats its people.

Regards,

Kate Barsotti

Medical school wins KC Council approval to demolish buildings

By Lynn Horsley

lhorsley@kcstar.com

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